

Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a Standard against him. I cannot help thinking that *this Prophecy* eminently points at *our Times* ; and begins to be fulfilled in the Multitudes of Souls that are bringing in to fear the LORD, to worship GOD in CHRIST, in whom his Name is, and to see his Glory in his Sanctuary. And it is to me pretty remarkable, that the Prophet here foretells they should do so in the Period he points at, *not from East to West, but from West to East* ; mentioning the *West* before the *East*, contrary to the usual Way of speaking in other Prophecies, as where *Malachi* foretells, that *the Name of the LORD should be great among the Gentiles, from the Rising of the Sun to the West*, (Mal. 1. 11.) And our LORD JESUS, that *many should come from East and West, &c.* (Math. 8. 11.) And in this Order it was that the Light of the Gospel came to dawn on the several Nations in the Propagation of it thro' the World. But the Prophet here, under the Conduct of the HOLY SPIRIT who chooses all his Words in infinite Wisdom, puts the *West* before the *East* ; intending, as I conceive, thereby to signify, that the glorious Revival of Religion, and the wide and diffusive Spread of vital Christianity, in the latter Times of the Gospel, should begin in the more *westerly* Parts, and proceed to these more *easterly*. And while it should be doing so, or shortly after, *great Opposition* should arise, *the Enemy should come in as a Flood* : *Satan* should with great Violence assault particular believing Souls ; and stir up Men to malign and reproach the Work of GOD ; and, it's like also, raise a terrible Persecution against the Church. But while the Enemy might seem, for a Time, to be thus carrying all before him, *the Spirit of the LORD should lift up a Standard against him* ; give a Banner to them that fear Him and animate them to display it for the Truth, and make his Word mightily to prevail and bear down all opposing Power. For on what Side soever, the Almighty and Eternal SPIRIT of JEHOVAH, lifts up a Standard, there the Victory is certain ; and we may be sure he will lift it up in Defence of his own Work. The *Caldee Paraphrase* makes the Words in the latter Part of this Verse, to allude to the River Euphrates, *when it breaks over all its Banks, and overflows the adjacent Plains*, thus, *when Persecutors shall come in, as the Inundation of the River Euphrates, they shall be broke in Pieces by the Word of the LORD.*

The

The whole of this Verse seems to me to have an Aspect to the *present and past Times for some Years*. The *Sun of Righteousness* has been making his Course from *West to East*, and shedding his benign and quickening Influences on poor forlorn and benighted Souls in Places vastly distant from one another. But Clouds have arisen and intercepted his reviving Beams. The Enemy of Salvation has broke in as an overflowing Flood, almost overwhelmed poor Souls newly come into the spiritual World, after they had got some Glimpse of the Glory of CHRIST, with a Deluge of Temptations: Floods of ungodly Men stirred up by *Satan* and their natural Enmity at Religion, have affrighted them: mistaken and prejudged Friends have ditown'd them. Many such Things have already befallen the Subjects of this glorious Work of GOD of late Years: But I apprehend *more general and formidable Trials* are yet to come: and that the Enemy's coming in as a Flood, may relate to a Flood of *Errors or Persecutions* of fierce Enemies rushing in upon the Church, and threatening to swallow her up. But our Comfort is, that the SPIRIT of the LORD of Hosts will lift up a Standard against all the combin'd Powers of Earth and Hell and put them all to flight: And CHRIST having begun to conquer so remarkably, will go on from conquering to conquer, 'till the whole Earth be filled with his Glory. *Rev. 12. 15. Isai. 17. 12, 13.*

I mention these Things, dear Sir, not for your Information, for I know that I can add nothing to you; but to shew my Agreement with you, in what you express as your Sentiments, that what has now been a doing, is the Fore-runner of something vastly greater, more pure and more extensive, and that GOD will revive his Work again, ere long, and that it will not wholly cease, 'till it has subdued the whole Earth: and, without pretending to prophecy, to hint a little at the Ground of my Expectations. Only I'm afraid (which is a Thing you do not hint at) that before these glorious Times, some dreadful Stroke or Trial may be yet abiding us. May the LORD prepare us for it. But as to this, I cannot and dare not peremptorily determine. All these Things I give up to further Light, without pretending to fix the Times and Seasons for GOD's great and wonderful Works, which he has reserv'd in his own Power, and the certain Knowledge of which he has lock'd up in his own Breast.

Extract from another Part of the Rev. Mr. McLaurin's Letter to the late Rev. Mr. COOPER, dated Glasgow, August 13th, 1743.

“THE DECLARATION printed in one of your News-Papers by a Party who call themselves *Anti-Papists, Anti-Whitefield, &c.* may, for any Thing I know be genuine : but it is by no Means done by the Messrs *Erskines* or *Seceders*, nor yet by the Body of the old *Separatists*, who are called (sometimes *Cameronians* or *Mountainmen*, sometimes *McMillanites* from their only Minister, for sometime, till they seem lately to have got Mr. *Nairn* from the *Seceders*, and who disown the present civil Powers as uncovenanted ; but by a very small Party who have seceded from the Body of the *McMillanites* and have no Minister at all. I never saw one of them that I know of : And after inquiring of one who should know more about such Things than most others here, I might say, did it not seem too marvellous, that it seems doubtful if the Number of the whole Party is more than double the Number of Names of Opposition in the Title of their Paper. My Informer, a Person of Gravity and Probity seem'd to conjecture there might be about a Dozen of them : but perhaps there are more.

GEORGIA.

Having at present closed our religious Accounts from Scotland, as transmitted by the last Ship from thence ; we now return to America, and Begin at the Westermost End of the British Empire on the Continent, viz. the new Colony of GEORGIA, (about four Thousand Miles to the Westward of Glasgow :) From whence we give the following Pieces.

Extract of a Letter from a Resident at the Orphan House in Georgia to his Friend now at Boston.

Bethesda, May 2d. 1743.

“I Tarried behind at GEORGIA while Mr. *Whitefield* went to ENGLAND. We are now between sixty and seventy in Family. The LORD wonderfully supports us in outward Things. But what we have greatest Cause to be thank-

thankful for is *spiritual Food*. Since Mr. *Whitefield* went away, at Times, several have been converted. But a more remarkable Work has been among us within these *three Months*. Several Souls have been translated out of the Kingdom of Satan into GOD's dear SON's. Such wonderful *Out-pourings* of the SPIRIT we have had, that we may well say our Wilderness is become a fruitful Land, an Habitation of Holiness, a Mount that GOD hath delighted to dwell in. The Work does not yet cease; several are under Concern. Oh! that GOD may indeed make us the Joy of the whole Earth! and Oh! that all the Kingdoms of the Earth may become the Kingdoms of our LORD JESUS CHRIST!

W. Grant.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Mr. JOSIAH SMITH of Charlestown in South-Carolina, to the Rev. Mr. PRINCE of Boston.

Charlestown, S-Carolina, Octob. 3. 1743.

Rev. Sir,

I Take the Liberty of inclosing to you my Sentiments of the *Orphan-House* in GEORGIA; assuring you, They are the Result of my impartial Judgment, upon the most exact Scrutiny. I have conceived so great an Opinion of *that Institution*, that I shall do all in my Power to promote it. A Copy of said Letter I sent long since to my Rev. and dear Brother Mr. *Cooper*.

Mr. SMITH's Sentiments of the Orphan-House which he enclosed, are as follow:

To the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM COOPER in Boston.

Rev. and dear Sir,

HAVING lately, to my great Satisfaction, visited the *Orphan-House* in GEORGIA, I believe it will not be disagreeable to you, to have my Sentiments of it thus communicated to the World.

I can securely refer you for *Particulars* to the Letter, your Son *William* wrote you from *Bethesda*, Jan. 1st. 1741, 2. which was printed in the *Boston Gazette*, April 23d. 1742, as a very fair and impartial Representation of Things, as they stood *Then*; nor have I observed any material Alterations since, save only, that their *Number* is somewhat diminished, by their being

being put to Flight when the Colony was invaded, and their discharging some hired white Servants, who too much encreas'd their Expences.----I was wonderfully pleas'd with the Situation and admirable Contrivance of the *House*, with the many Accommodations within, and Improvements without. But it really requires some *Master* of Description, and much stronger Language than mine, to convey a full Idea of the *Œconomy* and *religious Rules* and *Government* of the Family.-- It consists at present of 72 Persons, 42 of them *Orphans* and *Objects* of Charity.--- The *Gentleman* who *superintends* the *secular Affairs* of it, seems excellently qualified for his Province ; and spares no Pains or Fatigue in his Management or Provision ; animated with a Sense of *Duty*, and inspired with a Principle of true Christian Charity.---- The *other Gentleman* who officiates as *Preacher*, and has the *religious Concerns* of the House peculiarly committed to him, is, I think, a most serious and spiritual Man, much experienced in the divine Life, and studious to promote it in others ; and the happy Fruits of his Care, Diligence, and fervent Prayers, are undeniably visible, especially in some *late Awakenings* among them.----I speak it without Prejudice, I never, to my Knowledge, in any Society whatever, have seen more of the Face of *Religion*.----Order, Decorum, and Regularity reign *Here*. Solemn *Devotion*, and social *Harmony*, are two of its great Beauties.----These, with the pleasing Appearances of Health and Contentment, would tempt me to spend my whole Life among them, did not Providence and Duty point me out another Course.----I know, dear Sir, some among you have represented our dear *Whitefield* as an *importunate Beggar* :---- In this they have unwarily done him *Honour* ; for who can be *too importunate* in *begging* for an *House of Mercy* ? --- Such this has been to the *Souls* and *Bodies* of many already ; and since I have *seen* it, I think it my *Duty* to turn *Beggar* too, and upon this Occasion to recommend it to Christians of every Denomination, as one Object of their Care and Charity. --- This I'm sure is to *visit* the *Fatherless* in their Affliction.-- This makes us *Eyes* to the *Blind*, and *Feet* to the *Lame*.---- Nor do I call him a *Christian*, who eats his Morsel alone, and is not *glad* of every such Opportunity to honour the LORD with his Substance.---Not to be further tedious, I can heartily recommend *this House*, as a Seminary of true *Piety* and *good Order* ; and am not without Hopes, that *Providence* is here
laying

laying the Foundation of human *Literature* also, and that *Posterity*, if not we our selves, will see an *Academy* arise in *Georgia* out of an *Orphan-House*. With my best Wishes for its Prosperity, I conclude Reverend Sir,

Your unworthy Brother in the Gospel.

Charlestown, SO-CAROLINA,

JOSIAH SMITH.

June 5. 1743.

NEW-ENGLAND.

Continuation of the *State of Religion* at NORTHAMPTON in the County of HAMPSHIRE about a hundred Miles westward of BOSTON; By the Rev. Mr. EDWARDS, in a Letter to the Rev. Mr. PRINCE, dated Dec. 12. 1743.

“**E**Ver since the great Work of GOD that was wrought here about *nine Years ago*, there has been a great abiding Alteration in *this Town* in many Respects. There has been vastly more Religion kept up in the Town, among all Sorts of Persons, in religious Exercises, and in common Conversation, than used to be before: There has remain’d a more general Seriousness and Decency in attending the publick Worship: There has been a very great Alteration among the *Youth* of the Town, with Respect to revelling, frolicking, profane and unclean Conversation, and lewd Songs: Instances of Fornication have been very rare: There has also been a great Alteration amongst both *old* and *young* with Respect to Tavern-haunting. I suppose the Town has been in no Measure so free of Vice in these Respects, for any long Time together, for *this sixty Years*, as it has been *this nine Years* past. There has also been an evident Alteration with Respect to a charitable Spirit to the Poor: (tho’ I think with Regard to this, we in this Town, as the Land in general, come far short of Gospel Rules.) And tho’ after that great Work *nine Years ago* there has been a very lamentable Decay of religious Affections, and the Engagedness of People’s Spirit, in Religion; yet many Societies for Prayer and social Religion were all along kept up; and there were some few Instances of Awakening and deep Concern about the Things of another World, even in the most dead Time.

In

In the Year 1740 in the *Spring*, before Mr. WHITEFIELD came to this Town, there was a visible Alteration : There was more Seriousness, and religious Conversation, especially among young People : Those Things that were of ill Tendency among them were more foreborn : and it was a more frequent Thing for Persons to visit their Minister upon Soul Accounts : and in some particular Persons there appeared a great Alteration, about that Time. And thus it continued till Mr. *Whitefield* came to Town, which was about the middle of *October* following : he preached here *four Sermons* in the Meeting-House, (besides a *private Lecture* at my House) one on *Friday*, another on *Saturday*, and two upon the *Sabbath*. The Congregation was extraordinarily melted by every Sermon ; almost the whole Assembly being in Tears for a great Part of Sermon Time. Mr. *Whitefield's* Sermons were suitable to the Circumstances of the Town ; containing just Reproofs of our Backslidings, and in a most moving and affecting Manner, making Use of our great Profession and great Mercies as Arguments with us to return to God, from whom we had departed. Immediately after this the Minds of the People in general appear'd more engaged in Religion, shewing a greater Forwardness to make Religion the Subject of their Conversation, and to meet frequently together for religious Purposes, and to embrace all Opportunities to hear the Word preached. The *Revival* at first appear'd chiefly among *Professors*, and those that had entertained the Hope that they were in a State of Grace, to whom Mr. *Whitefield* chiefly address'd himself ; but in a very short Time there appeared an *Awakening* and deep Concern among some young Persons that looked upon themselves as in a *Christless State* ; and there were some hopeful Appearances of *Conversion* ; and some Professors were greatly revived. In about a *Month* or *six Weeks* there was a great Alteration in the Town, both as to the Revivals of Professors, and Awakenings of others. By the middle of *December* a very considerable Work of God appeared among those that were very young ; and the Revival of Religion continued to increase ; so that in the *Spring*, an Engagedness of Spirit about Things of Religion was become very general amongst young People and Children, and religious Subjects almost wholly took up their Conversation when they were together.

(To be continued.)